(b) whether the state Government has asked the promoters to reduce the cost;

(c) if so, the details of the cost projection and the demand to reduce the cost and whether the counter guarantee has given to the project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) in Andhra Pradesh being promoted by M/s. Hinduja National Power Corproation Limited (HNPCL) has been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on July 25, 1996 at an estimated completion cost of US$ 943.75 million + Rs. 1324.993 crores (@ 1U.S. $=Rs. 35.00). On 16.5.1998, Government approved extension of counter-guarantee to this project through a revised procedure. Counter guarantee of Government of India has been issued to the proejct on August 19, 1998.

M/s. HNPCL have submitted the firm financial package in two parts to Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP)/Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation (APTRANSCO) in the first week of November 1999 and second week of December, 1999. The same, which is presently under examination of GoAP/APTRANSCO, is required to be forwarded to CEA, along with the recommendations of GoAP. Change in cost, if any, over the project cost estimated by CEA, can be determined only after the firm financial package is approved by CEA.

GoAP have informed that they are negotiating reduction of capital cost of the project as required under the revised procedure for extension of counter guarantee.

Generation of Power in North-Eastern Region

725. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal to give thrust to the North- East power sector;

(b) if so, the survey made for generating more power in that region; and

(c) the time by which the projects would be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Government of India is giving adequate thrust for the development of power sector in North-Eastern region and Sikkim. As many as four Conferences of Power Ministers of North-Eastern Region and Sikkim have since been held since 1998 and with their due deliberations, various power generation schemes have been identified for execution. Brief status of capacity addition programme in North Eastern Region and Sikkim is given below:—

Central Sector		
Present Installed Capacity	=	730 MW
Kopili HEP, Assam	=	250MW
Assam Gas Based CCPP	=	291 MW
Agartala Gas Based Power Project	=	84 MW
Loktak HE Project	=	105 MW
Capacity Addition Plan		
IX Five Year Plan		
Doyang HE Project, Nagaland	=	75 MW
Ranganadi stage-I HE Proejct, Arunachal Pradesh	=	405 MW
Rangit HE Project (Sikkim)	=	60 MW
Total		540 MW
X Five Year Plan		
Tuirial HE Project, Mizoram	=	60 MW
Kameng HE Project, Arunanchal Pradesh	=	600 MW
Tuivai HE Project, Mizoram	=	210 MW
Loktak D/S Project, Manipur	=	90 MW
Kopili Stage-II HE Project, Assam	=	25 MW
Teesta-V, Sikkim	=	510 MW
Total	=	1495 MW

The following proejcts have been identified for capacity addition during XI Plan period and beyond;

Ranganadi Stage-II HE Project, Arunachal Pradesh	=	100 MW
Dikrong HE Project, Arunachal Pradesh	=	100 MW
Lower Kopili HE Proejct, Assam	=	150 MW
Tipaimukh HE Project, Manipur	=	1500 MW
Projects on Subansiri & Dihang Basins in Arunanchal Pradesh	=	20700 MW
Total		22550 MW

Setting up of Power Projects in Meghalaya

726. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased State:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) propose to establish any new power plants in the State of Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) National Thermal Power Corporation has no proposal to set up a power project in Meghalaya.

Special allocation from Anta GPS to Rajasthan

727. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that special allocation of 1 / 3rd of the total capacity of Anta GPS was made to Rajasthan in 1993 to Mitigate the shortage conditions prevailing in the State consequent to duration of RAPS Units I and II by 140 MWs in 1992;

(b) if so, why this special allocation had been suddenly withdrawn by the Ministry vide Northern Regional Electricity Board fax message dated 29th October, 1993; and

(c) whether Government intend to restore this special allocation and, if so, by when?